



Conversation Starters for PTAs and Principals

National PTA's 2023-2024 Principal Fellows for Family-School Partnerships helped craft this guide to help start discussions between PTAs and their school administrators. Search through the topics below to find questions you can ask each other to align your priorities and strengthen family-school partnerships.

School Vision and Goals

- What are the top priorities for the school and the PTA this year, and how can we collaboratively align and support our priorities?
- What are some of the key challenges the school and the PTA are currently facing, and how can we work together in addressing these hurdles?
- How do you envision the school's growth over the next five years, and what role can the PTA play in advancing and supporting this vision?

Communication

- What times work best for school administrators and PTA leaders to meet regularly to discuss updates and align priorities?
- What communication channels are most effective for keeping families engaged, and how can we work together to strengthen these channels?
- Which communication outlets does the school and the PTA have that can be leveraged to cross-promote updates and announcements?
- What contact information does the PTA collect, who manages this information and with whom is it shared?

Curriculum and Educational Excellence

- Are there any new educational initiatives or curricula being introduced this year that families should be aware of?
- How can the PTA support the school's efforts in promoting science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) or other specialized programs?
- What can the PTA do to help improve the school's overall academic environment and student outcomes?
- What programs or subjects do you think the PTA could help advocate for or provide additional resources to enhance?
- How can we work together to ensure that our students have access to a well-rounded, high-quality education?



Community Building

- How do the school and the PTA foster a sense of community among families, and what can we jointly do to strengthen these efforts?
- What community partnerships or collaborations could the PTA help facilitate to benefit the school?
- How can we create more opportunities for families, teachers and staff to connect and share ideas?
- What events or programs can we organize in partnership to build stronger connections between families and the school?
- What opportunities exist for the school to engage with the broader community to support the school, and how can we collaboratively support these initiatives?

Equity and Inclusion

- What are some of the most effective ways school and PTA leaders can help foster a positive and inclusive school culture?
- What steps are the school and PTA taking to address any gaps in student achievement or opportunity, and how can we work together to enhance these efforts?
- How can we work together to create a more inclusive and positive environment for all families and students?
- How can we support each other in making family engagement more accessible to all families, including those with diverse schedules and/or backgrounds?

Budgets and Accounting

- How does the school prioritize funding needs, and how can the PTA help inform and advocate for school funding priorities?
- What can we do to ensure our respective budgets are coordinated around school-wide efforts and initiatives for student success?
- What are the most pressing funding needs at the school right now, and how can the PTA advocate to fill those gaps?

Membership

- How can school administrators support the PTA in getting staff to join?
- How much are annual dues to join the PTA?
- Are there any membership discounts available to teachers and school staff?



Roles and Points of Contact

- Who are the key individuals at the school and in the PTA and what are their roles (e.g., principals, counselors, administrators, PTA officers)?
- How can PTA leaders and school administrators further support each other in their roles?
- How can we further align our roles as school and PTA leaders in family engagement efforts such as PTA events, open houses, parent-teacher conferences, etc.?

Future Collaborations

- What are the best ways we can all be informed about each other's developments and initiatives, and how can we best support these efforts?
- How can we improve our partnership between the PTA and school leadership to create a more effective working relationship?
- How will we measure the success of our collaboration?
- Is there any feedback or suggestions you have for the school on how we can better work together to support students and the community?